

# COVID-19

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

## **STATEMENT FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE SOMERS ON THE PHASED RE-OPENING OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers has stated that he has no intention of recommending Snohomish County move back to Phase 1 at this time. His full statement is at right.

## **AVOID LARGE GATHERINGS DURING FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND, HEALTH OFFICER SAYS**

Public health officials in Snohomish County are urging people to keep their distance as they celebrate the Fourth of July holiday during the COVID-19 crisis.

## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING**

### **Statement from County Executive Somers on the Phased Re-Opening of Snohomish County**

Earlier today, the Snohomish County Executive released the following statement on the phased re-opening of Snohomish County:

"I support the phased re-opening of Snohomish County. Within each phase, we must review and measure our ability to move safely to the next. Though we aren't ready to move into Phase 3 because of our increased case numbers, I want to make clear I have no intention of recommending Snohomish County move back to Phase 1 at this time. The only reason I would even consider it at some point in the future would be if we saw a significant, sustained outbreak that threatened to overwhelm our health care system or a significant, sustained spike in deaths. We are very far from either of those scenarios right now. We are seeing a concerning rise in the number of cases, but it is not negatively impacting our death rates or our hospital capacity. We will continue to monitor the number of cases and work to bring the rate back down. If people continue both to practice effective social distancing and to wear masks when in public, we will continue to progress to the next phase.

"I know how hard the pandemic has impacted all of us, our families and friends, our jobs and our businesses. It has touched every part of our community. We will continue to balance keeping our economy as open as possible while also keeping our residents safe. I appreciate the hard work everyone has done in Snohomish County to stay healthy and practice good social distancing. We need to keep it up and not get complacent this weekend."

### **Avoid Large Gatherings During Fourth of July Weekend, Health Officer Says**

Public health officials in Snohomish County are urging people to keep their distance as they celebrate the Fourth of July holiday during the COVID-19 crisis.

The number of known COVID-19 cases in the county is again on the rise, data show. So are reports of people gathering for large parties.

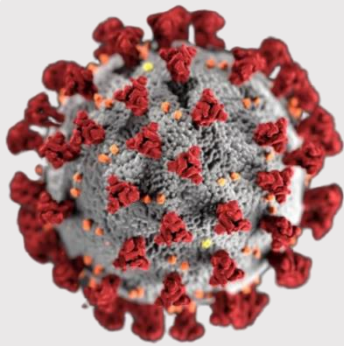
That's a bad idea, said Dr. Chris Spitters, health officer for the Snohomish Health District.

The county is operating under Phase 2 of the state's Safe Start plan. That means people are limited to social gatherings of no more than five people outside of their households during a seven-day period. It is fine to get together to celebrate the Fourth, but not as in years past, Spitters told a [Zoom media briefing](#) on Tuesday.

"So that means a small get-together with a family or a few friends is fine to celebrate a holiday, but not a large barbecue, not a festival, not a big party. That's outside the limits of the rules and for good reason. What's happening right now is what we're trying to prevent," Spitters said.

Indeed, people who opt to attend large gatherings should consider remaining at home for the next 14 days in quarantine, and if they develop any symptoms, promptly seek testing, he said. In other words, no work; no visiting with others; no running errands.

Parties and other large gatherings can be "super spreader" events, Spitters explained. They also present challenges for public health officials because



# COVID-19

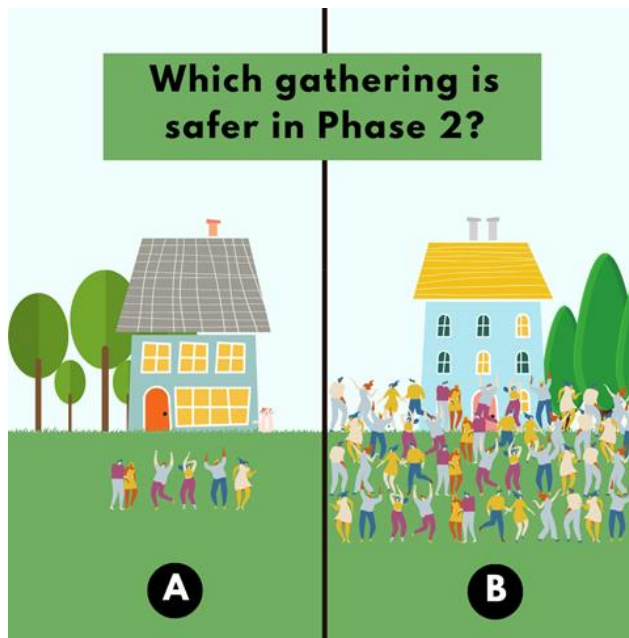
## LISTEN TO THE FREEDOM BIRD

Be like the eagle – keep a safe social distance of at least six feet away from people who are not in your household this Independence Day weekend.

the bigger the gathering, the more people who must be identified and assessed for signs of infection.

"So it is in our hands," Spitters said. "Staying home is best. If you do get together, smaller is safer than larger; outdoors is safer than indoors."

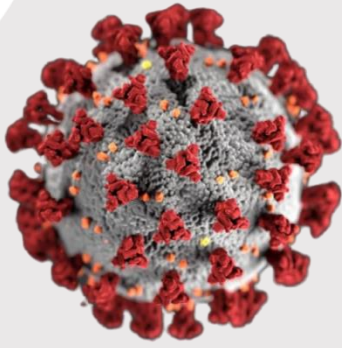
The Joint Information Center has published [a brief video](#) detailing the Safe Start guidelines for gatherings during Phase 2, and the health officer's advice.



## Listen to the Freedom Bird

Snohomish County will be in Phase 2 for the Fourth of July holiday. Maintaining social distancing and gathering in small groups remain key parts of the Safe Start plan to reopen Washington.





# COVID-19

## **JULY 3 EDMONDS BLACK LIVES RALLY POSTPONED BECAUSE OF COVID-19 CONCERNS**

In light of concerns about rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in our area, the organizers of the Edmonds Rally for Freedom have postponed the event.

## **13 EVERETT FIREFIGHTERS QUARANTINED AFTER CORONAVIRUS EXPOSURE**

13 City of Everett firefighters are now in quarantine after exposure to individuals with COVID-19.

## **July 3 Edmonds Black Lives Rally Postponed Because of COVID-19 Concerns**

A July 3 community rally to amplify Black voices and freedom has been postponed over concerns "about the rising number of COVID-19 cases in our area."

"While recent protests and rallies have not been found to be super-spreader events when attendees wear masks and follow distancing, the health of our community is paramount. And being mindful of everyone's health risks, data has also shown that COVID-19 is statistically impacting the Black community in greater numbers," organizers [wrote on Facebook Tuesday](#).

"As a group of local Edmonds residents, we remain deeply committed to the work of dismantling systemic racism. We encourage everyone to make a commitment to becoming anti-racist, learning what that means, and taking meaningful action.

"As soon as we deem it safe, we will reschedule this event. Please look for future announcements and we look forward to coming together as a community to show our support for Black lives in Edmonds and beyond".



**EDMONDS for BLACK LIVES  
RALLY FOR FREEDOM**

Friday, July 3rd from 1pm to 2:30pm at Civic Field in Edmonds

JUL  
3

Postponed! Edmonds for Black Lives Rally  
for Freedom

## **13 Everett Firefighters Quarantined After Coronavirus Exposure**

Over the weekend, 10 Everett firefighters were placed in quarantine at their homes after a co-worker became ill after their work shift. The firefighter sought medical attention for his illness, which included a test for the coronavirus (COVID-19), which returned with a positive result. It is unknown where the ill firefighter contracted the virus.

Three additional firefighters are also in quarantine due to separate exposures to individuals with known COVID-19 infections.

All 13 crew members will be quarantined at their homes for the incubation period of the coronavirus, which is 14 days from the date of exposure. The fire department will monitor their condition for any symptoms of COVID-19.

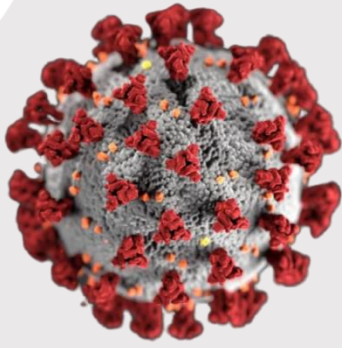
There is no cause for alarm to the public. Since the first positive COVID-19 patient was identified in Snohomish County, the Everett Fire Department has proactively taken precautionary measures to protect firefighters from contracting the COVID-19 virus from their interactions with the public and ensuring firefighters are not the cause of spreading the virus to the



**SNOHOMISH  
HEALTH DISTRICT**  
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**Snohomish County**



# COVID-19

## FROM EVERETT: WEAR A FACE COVER

Help keep those around you safe and wear a face covering when in public, both indoors and outdoors when you can't stay 6 feet away from others.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

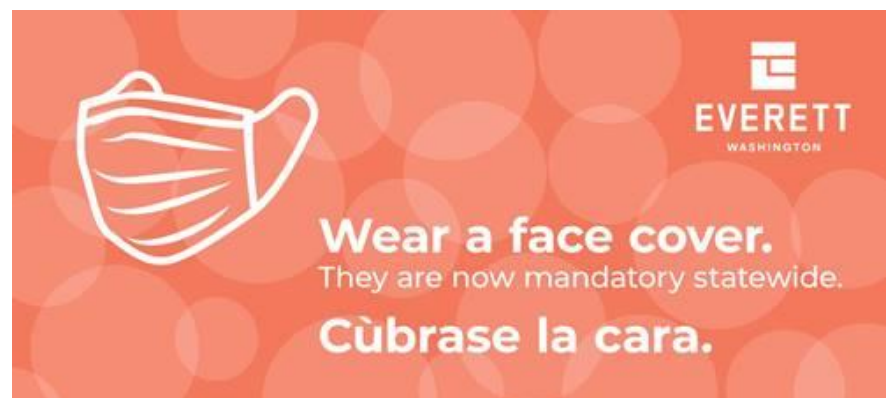
Beginning June 29, 2020 through August 2, 2020 the Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program has temporarily stopped making new appointments, so staff is able to process current applications.

community members they serve. All firefighters are required to follow a high-level Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocol during any medical call or interaction with the public, which includes wearing an N-95 mask or respirator, eye goggles or face shield, a protective gown, and gloves. Additionally, extraordinary cleaning and decontamination measures are in place for the fire apparatus and stations to ensure the safety of our firefighters and the community they serve.

The department works in partnership with the Everett Firefighters, IAFF Local 46, to ensure all affected members are supported during quarantine, illness, and recovery while still answering the calls for help within the community. The Everett Fire Department continues to respond to all emergency and non-emergency calls for service.

## From Everett: Wear a Face Cover

Please help keep those around you safe and wear a face covering when in public, both indoors and outdoors (where you can't stay 6 feet away from others). The statewide face cover mandate is now in effect and requires the use of face coverings in public for everyone over the age of 5 unless there is a medical reason not to. Learn more about the mandate and face covers on the state's [coronavirus response website](#).



## Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program Update

The Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program office still remains closed due to COVID-19.

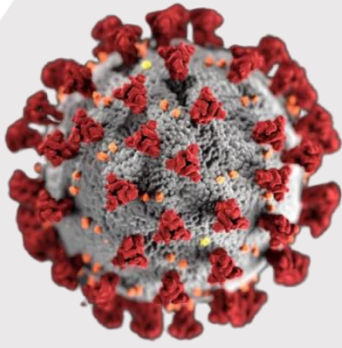
Beginning June 29, 2020 thru August 2, 2020, the Energy Assistance Program has temporarily stopped making new appointments, so staff is able to process current applications. We will update our phone line on August 3, 2020, to let you know when we can schedule new appointments.

For new applicants, if you have received an overdue bill and/or disconnect notice while you are waiting for the phone line to reopen, we have been informed you will not be shut off. Please call your heating provider to discuss any concerns.

For current applicants, we will continue to call those who already have an appointment with us thru July. Once you have received your application packet, it may take up to 6 weeks from the date we receive your completed packet to inform you of your award amount. If your application is returned as incomplete, it will take longer to process your award amount. Please be sure you provide everything that is being requested. Meanwhile if you have any questions on whether you've been awarded a grant, please contact your heating provider.

Please note the phone line will not be active for accepting calls from June 29, 2020 thru August 2, 2020. All communications with current applicants will be handled by phone, email or mail.





# COVID-19

## **INSLEE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR RENT ASSISTANCE, TRIBAL RECOVERY EFFORTS, SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS**

Gov. Jay Inslee Tuesday announced the state has distributed nearly \$365 million in federal funds to help with COVID-19 response and relief efforts across Washington.

For more information please visit the Energy Assistance's [webpage](#).

### **Inslee Announces Funding for Rent Assistance, Tribal Recovery Efforts, Small Businesses and Nonprofits**

Gov. Jay Inslee Tuesday announced the state has distributed nearly \$365 million in federal funds to help with COVID-19 response and relief efforts across Washington.

Distributed this week to seven state agencies and the University of Washington, the allocations include nearly \$351 million in federal CARES Act funding and \$13.5 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To date, the state has distributed [more than \\$950 million](#) in federal COVID-19 relief and response funds.

"This next installment of funds for communities all over the state will be put to work right away to help stabilize and restart our state's economy," Inslee said. "These funds are going to those who need it the most—renters, small businesses, tribes and non-profit organizations working with young people. We will continue to everything we can to ensure that Washingtonians have what they need to be secure, stable and healthy."

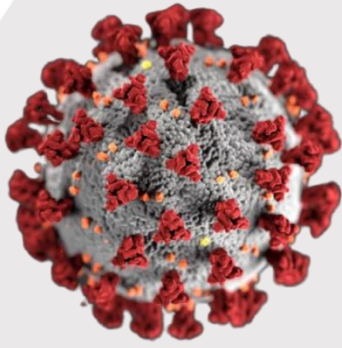
This week's distributions include \$163 million to the state Department of Commerce to provide aid to many of those hardest hit by the economic fallout from the worst pandemic in more than a century. It includes:

- \$100 million to provide rent assistance to low-income renters at risk of homelessness, using an existing framework to send rent payments directly to landlords.
- \$20 million to provide grants to help small businesses, support for local economic development organizations providing assistance to businesses, and support for data-driven recovery plans by region and industry.
- \$20 million to provide operating grants to support nonprofits working to address disparities and inequities exacerbated by increased need and decreased funding due to COVID-19, including a variety of community and youth development programs.
- \$20 million to assist Tribes with their pandemic recovery related efforts.

"Equity is a priority for distributing the funds," said Commerce Director Lisa Brown. "Commerce is working with our partners in local government and economic and community development organizations in every region of the state, paying attention to historically marginalized or underserved communities and groups hardest hit by the virus."

The state also sent \$45 million to the Department of Health to support the agency's COVID-19 emergency response efforts and to support its testing and contact tracing activities in Yakima. Another \$61 million went to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, mostly to assist child care providers and families receiving services from the Working Connections Child Care program. And the Department of Agriculture received \$15.2 million to cover increased demands for the state's Emergency Food Assistance Program.

The University of Washington received nearly \$24 million, largely to support the university's COVID testing efforts and reimburse UW Medicine's public health response to the COVID-19 crisis.



# COVID-19

## L&I FURLOUGHS WILL MEAN REDUCED SERVICE FOR FOUR DAYS IN JULY

Many L&I employees will be furloughed on July 2, July 10, July 17, and July 24. Dates for the monthly furlough days for August through November have not been determined.

## FIRST EMPLOYER CITED FOR IGNORING SAFE START ORDER

Anytime Fitness Selah is facing nearly \$10,000 in L&I fines for operating in violation of Gov. Jay Inslee's Safe Start order.

## L&I Furloughs Will Mean Reduced Services for Four Days in July

Starting this week, the [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#) (L&I) is participating in the state's furlough plan as a result of the budget shortfall related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Many L&I employees will be furloughed on the following four dates in July:

- Thursday, July 2
- Friday, July 10
- Friday, July 17
- Friday, July 24

L&I's Tumwater and field office locations will be closed to the public on furlough days, and many employees will not respond to phone calls and email on those days. L&I is also closed Friday, July 3, to observe Independence Day.

L&I services vital to public health and safety — Insurance Services, Occupational Safety and Health, and electrical inspections — have some staff working on furlough days. This ensures there are no delays in workers' compensation benefits, and quicker responses to urgent workplace safety and health issues.

The Electrical Program staff will continue to perform scheduled inspections on these days.

After July, many L&I employees will be required to take one furlough day a month through November. Dates for the monthly furlough days have not been determined.

[Read the full news release.](#)

## First Employer Cited for Ignoring Safe Start Order

A fitness center near Yakima is facing nearly \$10,000 in fines for operating in violation of Gov. Jay Inslee's Safe Start order.

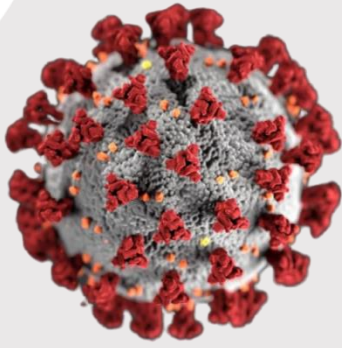
The [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#) (L&I) cited company owner Bradshaw Development, Inc. this week after L&I inspectors found Anytime Fitness Selah open for business on June 15 when it should've been closed under the governor's order.

L&I inspected the Selah facility after receiving multiple complaints from the public and a referral from the Yakima Health District that Anytime Fitness was operating in violation of the governor's proclamation. When L&I inspectors went to the facility they saw several employees working, as well as customers entering and using the facility.

Before L&I conducted the inspection, state workers contacted the business multiple times; they informed the business about the order and directed it to close.

The governor's [Safe Start](#) proclamation prohibits most businesses from operating unless their county is in the appropriate phase of the statewide plan to reopen their economy and other aspects of daily living. Anytime Fitness Selah is in Yakima County, one of the state's most active areas for coronavirus (COVID-19) infections. The county remains in Phase 1, the most restrictive tier of the four-phase state plan.

Through June 26, L&I staff working at the state EOC have contacted more than 400 businesses about complaints filed about their operations. The staff have given businesses guidance and answered questions when possible. The team still has approximately 1,300 businesses to contact about possible Safe Start violations.



# COVID-19

## RED CROSS OFFERS VIRTUAL CARE FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES TO COVID-19

The American Red Cross has developed a Virtual Family Assistance Center (VFAC) to provide support to families and communities who have suffered loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## IRS PROVIDES TAX RELIEF FOR THE LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT AND BONDS FOR QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROJECTS

The IRS has issued a new notice to provide tax relief to issuers, operators, owners, and tenants of qualified low-income housing projects or residential rental projects financed with exempt facility bonds. Details at right.

People who believe a business is violating Safe Start rules can [report it online](#).

[Read the full news release.](#)

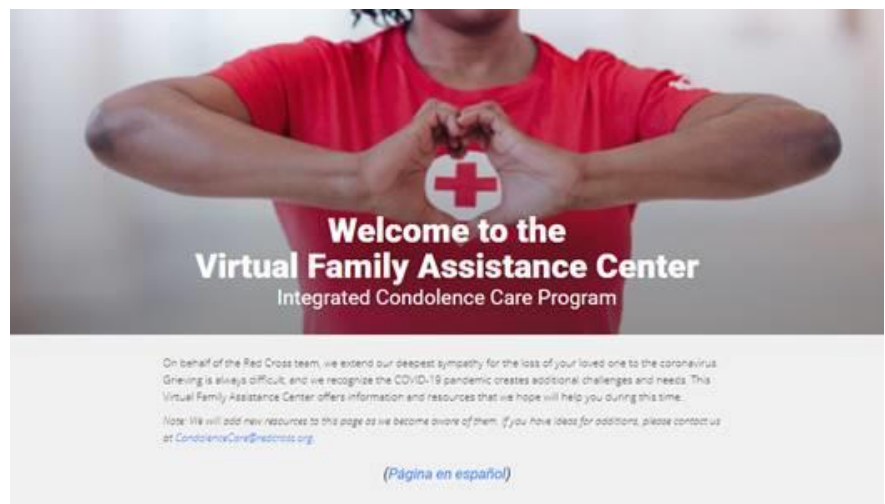
## Red Cross Offers Virtual Care for Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones to COVID-19

In order to provide support to families and communities who have suffered loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Red Cross has developed a [Virtual Family Assistance Center](#) (VFAC).

People can visit [redcross.org/VFAC](https://redcross.org/VFAC) to access this resource with special virtual programs, information, referrals and services to support families in need. The VFAC will also connect people to other community resources that may be provided when available.

People without internet access can call toll-free 833-492-0094 for help.

This is an incredibly difficult time for everyone, but especially for those who have lost a loved one due to COVID-19. The Red Cross, in collaboration with our partners, is here to provide compassion and support as they grieve.



Someone to talk to
National Resources
State & Local Resources
Psychological First Aid Courses
Other Red Cross Resources

## If You Need to Talk with Someone



Connect with the Red Cross immediately by calling us toll-free at 833-492-0094. Language services for non-English speaking callers will be provided.

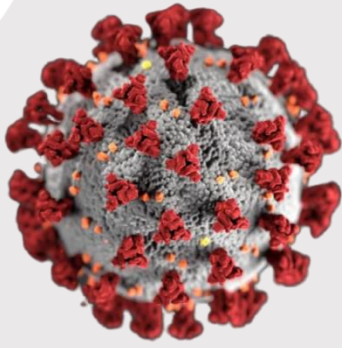


Request a call from the Red Cross by clicking the red button below. One of our volunteers, who can help you navigate available resources to get what you need, will call you back. Our team includes volunteers trained in:

## IRS Provides Tax Relief for the Low-Income Housing Credit and Bonds for Qualified Residential Rental Projects

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Internal Revenue Service today issued [Notice 2020-53](#) to provide tax relief to issuers, operators, owners, and tenants of qualified low-income housing projects or qualified residential rental projects financed with exempt facility bonds, and state agencies that have jurisdiction over these projects.

[Read the full release.](#)



# COVID-19

## IRS ANNOUNCES ROLLOVER RELIEF FOR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS FROM RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS THAT WERE WAIVED UNDER THE CARES ACT

Anyone who already took a required minimum distribution in 2020 from certain retirement accounts now has the opportunity to roll those funds back in. See right for details.

## U.S. SURGEON GENERAL VIDEO: HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY IMPROVISING A MASK

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams has republished a widely viewed video demonstrating how to create a face cover using a couple of rubber bands and an old t-shirt. See right for the links.

## IRS Announces Rollover Relief for Required Minimum Distributions from Retirement Accounts that Were Waived Under the CARES Act

Last week, the Internal Revenue Service announced that anyone who already took a required minimum distribution (RMD) in 2020 from certain retirement accounts now has the opportunity to roll those funds back into a retirement account following the CARES Act RMD waiver for 2020.

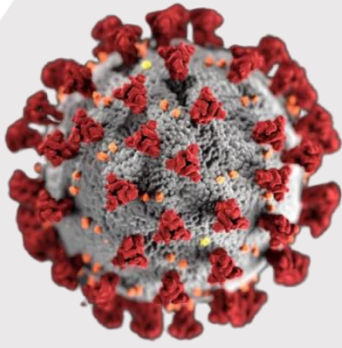
[Read the full release.](#)

## U.S. Surgeon General Video: Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 by Improvising a Mask

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams has republished a [widely viewed video](#) demonstrating how to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by creating a face cover using a couple of rubber bands and an old T-shirt. [Written directions](#) for improvising a mask also are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.







# COVID-19

## CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

### ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help. For information to be texted to you, text **Coronavirus** to **211-211**.

## Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of July 1, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1 p.m.
Confirmed	3,581
Probable	483
Deaths	171

Jurisdiction	
Arlington	153 (129 recovered)
Bothell*	263 (213 recovered)
Brier	23 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	398 (333 recovered)
Everett	1,205 (957 recovered)
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	31 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	161 (124 recovered)
Lynnwood	715 (640 recovered)
Marysville	362 (245 recovered)
Mill Creek	63 (53 recovered)
Monroe	99 (87 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	130 (114 recovered)
Mukilteo	75 (71 recovered)
Snohomish	190 (160 recovered)
Stanwood	128 (104 recovered)
Sultan	11 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	27 (23 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	13 (11 recovered)
Woodway	8 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. \*Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.